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11/13/98

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

I. HEADING

DATE: November 13, 1998

SUBJECT: Carbographics, Harwood Heights, Cook County, Illinois

FROM: Brad Benning, OSC, US EPA, Region 5, EERB

TO: K. Mould, US EPA, OSWER, Washington, DC
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POLREP: Initial

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B556
Delivery Order No.: N/A (PRP Lead)
Response Authority: CERCLA
ERNS No.:
CERCLIS No.: ILD002993582
NPL Status: Non-NPL
State Notification: IEPA notified
Action Memorandum Status: N/A (AOC)
Start Date: October 27, 1998
Demobilization Date: N/A
Completion Date: N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

The CERCLA incident category for the site is an inactive production facility.

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Carbographics site is an abandoned metal parts silk screening facility located at 4757 North Ronald Street, in Harwood Heights, Cook County, Illinois. Coordinates for the site are latitude 41°58'00"N, and longitude 87°48'11.7"W. The potentially

The site is located in a suburban residential/industrial neighborhood. The site is bordered on the north by an alley and an apartment building; on the east by residences; on the south by an industrial facility; and on the west by Ronald Street. The homes adjacent to the east fence of the site are within 10 feet of the property. There is an elementary school located approximately 0.25 miles southeast of the site and a high school located approximately 0.5 miles southwest of the site.

The site consists of a one-story, industrial, brick building on the northern portion of the property and an asphalt parking lot on the southern portion of the property. The facility is vacant and has been severely vandalized. There are approximately one hundred and fifty 55-gallon drums scattered throughout the building. There are also over one thousand 1-gallon, 5-gallon, and other various sized containers scattered throughout the building. There is fencing only along the rear of the building, with no other means of restricting access to the building. City workers informed START that trespassers often dump garbage in the parking lot.

2. Description of Threat

On March 13, 1998, the US EPA Region 5 START contractor performed a site assessment at the Carbographics site. The site assessment was performed due to requests from village officials who had expressed concern that uncontained hazardous substances at this site presented a potential threat to the local population. The site assessment documented RCRA hazardous wastes which, due to the serious threat of fire and explosion on site, easy site access, and the presence of nearby schools, there is a significant potential for nearby populations to be exposed to hazardous substances.

C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results

On March 13, 1998, the US EPA Region 5 START contractor performed a site assessment at the Carbographics site. The site was found to contain corrosive hazardous wastes and ignitable hazardous waste. These wastes could be found in the over 1,000 small containers and approximately 200 drums found on site.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

A. Current situation

B. Removal activities to date

During week ending October 31, 1998, R3 Environmental (R3) subcontractor to Environmental Contracting (EC), the contractor for the PRP, continued site activities. The Site Safety Plan was reviewed and signed by all new crew members. Level D personal protective equipment (PPE) is being used for site walkthrough and Level C PPE will be used for site work. R3 began collecting and staging small containers. A Bobcat is being used to clear debris out of the way to stage drums, overpacks and 1 cubic yard (yd³) boxes. In addition, the Bobcat is used to scrape and consolidate floor sweepings. Small containers

were packed into 55-gallon steel open-top drums and 5-gallon containers were packed into cubic yard boxes. Overpacks are being secured in the room on the north side of the building until disposal. On Friday, October 30, 1998, R3 began staging small containers from the "flammable materials" room.

During week ending November 7, 1998, R3 continued staging small containers and 5-gallon containers from the "flammable materials" room and EC continued to consolidate floor scrapings. R3 completed staging of small containers on November 4, and completed packing on November 5. Two small containers, approximately 1/2 quart total volume, contained radioactive material. The labels on the containers showed the material to contain phosphorous and was manufactured by American Radium Company. A total of 12 cubic yard boxes and 66 55-gallon open-top steel drums were filled. EC tore down the plating line on the east side of the main room. All vats were scraped and all debris and floor sweepings were consolidated into one pile. EC also scraped each of the four spray booths within the building.

C. Enforcement

The PRP will conduct cleanup actions at the site through a private contractor.

B. Planned Removal Activities

- PRP contractor will overpack drums
- PRP contractor will ship drums and boxes of waste for offsite disposal.

C. Key Issues

None.

V. COST INFORMATION

ERCS

Current D.O. Ceiling Not Applicable

START

TDD Ceiling \$10,000

Costs through 11/7/98 \$1,800